

**ABSTRACT**

A disbursement tracking system for validating and controlling the usage of output devices on which costs are incurred. The disbursement tracking system includes a processing unit for receiving input signals conveying data associated with a document a user desires to generate on an output device. The processing unit is operative to extract document print information and device information from the input signals and to generate an output signal on a basis of the document print information. On a basis of the device information, the processing unit determines the status of the output device. If the status of the output device does not require cost allocation data, the output signal is transmitted to the output device without modification. If the status of the output device requires cost allocation data, the processing unit is operative to retrieve from the user, and attempt to validate, the cost allocation data. If validated, the cost allocation data is inserted into the output signal and the output signal including the cost allocation data is transmitted to the output device.